

Financial Resources Available to Youth in Care for Post- Secondary Education

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February 17, 2016



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Center for Child Welfare and Education

Educational Access Project for DCFS

overview

- What is Financial Aid?
- Financial Aid through FAFSA
- Financial Aid from DCFS Programs
- Helpful Links/Resources

What is Financial Aid?

- **Financial Aid**
 - Given, earned, or borrowed money to pay for college
- **Students primarily responsible for funding education**
 - Financial aid helps fill gap between funding the student has and total cost of attendance

What is Financial Aid?

- **Gift Aid**

- Grants- Need-based aid
- Scholarships- Merit, athletics, extracurricular activities, etc.

- **Self-Help Aid**

- Work-study- Money earned from need-based employment
- Loans- Borrowed money that must be repaid

What is Financial Aid?

IT ALL STARTS

WITH...

FAFSA



START HERE
GO FURTHER. 
FEDERAL STUDENT AID®

FAFSA Overview

- **What is the FAFSA?**
 - Free Application for Federal Student Aid
 - Filing it determines how much financial aid a student is eligible to receive
 - It is used by schools to determine federal, state and institutional aid.
- **Where can you find the application?**
 - <https://fafsa.ed.gov>

FAFSA Application Period

- January 1, 2016: Students submit FAFSA to secure funding for 2016-2017 school year
- October 1, 2016: Students submit FAFSA to secure funding for 2017-2018 school year
- October 1 of every year after this to secure funding for future years.

WHEN IS YOUR
FAFSA
DEADLINE?

Information Needed Prior to Filing FAFSA

- All students filing a FAFSA application are required to have a valid social security number
- If the student is not a U.S. Citizen or Naturalized Citizen, he/she will need to provide proof of legal permanent resident card or proof of asylum at the time they file their FAFSA application (need to add info about the other exceptions)
- Students under the DACA program are not consider eligible for FAFSA.
- Students working and filing income tax will need to provide income information.
- Students do not need to have file their taxes for the year in order to complete their FAFSA
- Once the taxes are file, student can retrieve that information directly from the IRS Data Retrieval Tool; which is available directly through FAFSA application.

Federal Student Aid (FSA ID)

- Applicants are now required to create a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) and a password in order to log in to their FAFSA.
 - All new applicants will have their social security numbers verified with the Social Security Administration.
 - This verification process might take up to 3 days.
 - When filing FAFSA and FSA ID, students **MUST** use their name as shown on their social security card.
- If a student previously used a PIN number, the student is required to also create a FSA ID and password as well.
 - There is a section on the FSA ID process where any student who had a PIN number before will need to add that PIN number there.
 - By sharing the PIN number during the FSA ID process, student will be verified automatically.



Home



Help

Welcome, Dependent [Logout](#)

SEARCH

My FAFSA

Welcome, Dependent Data!

2016-2017

2015-2016

We did not find a 2016-2017 application on file for you.

To receive student financial aid, you need to fill out a FAFSA every school year. Are you attending college between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017? If so, fill out the 2016-2017 FAFSA.

**START 2016-2017
FAFSA**

FSA ID

Last Time, Date FSA ID Used:

FSA ID Status:

[User Account Management](#)

You can use your FSA ID to sign your FAFSA electronically or make corrections to your FAFSA.

NEED HELP?

STUDENT



Help

SEARCH

Student Demographics

School Selection

Dependency Status

Parent Demographics

Financial Information

Sign & Submit

Confirmation

STUDENT

Student Eligibility

Are you a U.S. citizen?

Yes, I am a U.S. citizen (or U.S. national) ▼

Are you registered with the Selective Service System?

Yes No

Most male citizens and male immigrants must register with the Selective Service System to receive federal student aid. If you are not registered, select **Register me**.

Register me

What will your high school completion status be when you begin college in the 2016-2017 school year?

High school diploma ▼

What will your grade level be when you begin the 2016-2017 school year?

Attended college before/1st yr. ▼

What degree or certificate will you be working on when you begin the 2016-2017 school year?

1st bachelor's degree ▼

Are you interested in being considered for work-study?

Yes ▼

Will you have your first bachelor's degree before you begin the 2016-2017 school year?

Yes No

Are you a foster youth or were you at any time in the foster care system?

No ▼

Highest school completed by Parent 1

High School ▼

Highest school completed by Parent 2

Other/unknown ▼

Have you ever received federal student aid?

Yes No

Have you been convicted for the possession or sale of illegal drugs for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid (grants, work-study, and/or loans)?

Yes No

PREVIOUS

NEXT

NEED HELP?

SAVE

CLEAR ALL DATA

VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY

EXIT

Help and Hints

Has Student Received Federal Student Aid?

Select **Yes** if you have received federal student grants, Federal Work-study, or federal student loans.

Select **No** if you have never attended college. Also select **No** if you have never received federal student grants, Federal Work-study, or federal student loans.



Help

SEARCH

Student Demographics

School Selection

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Financial Information

Sign & Submit

Confirmation

Dependency Determination



Application was successfully saved.

Were you born before January 1, 1993?

Yes No

As of today, are you married?

Yes No

At the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, or graduate certificate, etc.)?

Yes No

Do you now have or will you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017?

Yes No

Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2017?

Yes No

Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training?

Yes No

Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?

Yes No

At any time since you turned age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?

Yes No

As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor?

Yes No

Does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?

Yes No

On or after July 1, 2015, were you homeless or were you self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

Yes No

PREVIOUS

NEXT

NEED HELP?

SAVE

CLEAR ALL DATA

VIEW FAFSA SUMMARY

EXIT

Help and Hints

Is Student Homeless or At Risk of Being Homeless?

Select **Yes** if any time after July 1, 2015, you were homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless.

Select **No** if you are not homeless or at risk of being homeless.

- **Homeless** means lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing.
- You may be homeless if you are living in shelters, parks, motels or cars, or temporarily living with other people because you have nowhere else to go. Also, if you are living in any of these situations and fleeing an abusive parent you may be

STUDENT

Get My Federal Income Tax Information


See our [Privacy Notice](#) regarding our request for your personal information.

Enter the following information from your 2015 Federal Income Tax Return. [?](#)

Required fields *

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| First Name * | Dependent |
| Last Name * | Data |
| Social Security Number * | *** - ** - 2581 |
| Date of Birth * | 01 / 01 / 1994 |
| Filing Status * ? | Single |
| Address - Must match your 2015 Federal Income Tax Return. ? | |
| Street Address * | |
| P.O. Box (Required) | |
| Apt. Number (Required) | |
| Country * | |
| City, Town or Post Office | |
| State/U.S. Territory | |
| ZIP Code * | |

Message from webpage





THIS U.S. GOVERNMENT SYSTEM IS FOR AUTHORIZED USE ONLY!
 Use of this system constitutes consent to monitoring, interception, recording, reading, copying or capturing by authorized personnel of all activities. There is no right to privacy in this system. Unauthorized use of this system is prohibited and subject to criminal and civil penalties, including all penalties applicable to willful unauthorized access (UNAX) or inspection of taxpayer records (under 18 U.S.C. 1030 and 26 U.S.C. 7213A and 26 U.S.C. 7431).


Select the button below to exit the IRS system and return to your FAFSA.

By submitting this information, you certify that you are the person identified. Use of this system to access another person's information may result in civil and criminal penalties.

Student 2015 Federal Income Tax Information


The information below is your tax information that will help you answer some of the questions on the FAFSA.

| | My Tax Information | FAFSA Question Numbers  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tax Year | 2015 | |
| Name(s) | Dependent Data | |
| Social Security Number | *** - ** - 2581 | |
| Filing Status | Single | Question 34 on the FAFSA |
| Type of Tax Return Filed | 1040EZ | Question 33 on the FAFSA |
| Adjusted Gross Income | \$9,750 | Question 36 on the FAFSA |
| Income Earned From Work  | \$20,125 | Question 39 on the FAFSA |
| Income Tax | \$7,025 | Question 37 on the FAFSA |
| IRS Exemptions | 5 | Question 38 on the FAFSA |

 Print this page for your records before choosing an option below.


Transfer My Tax Information into the FAFSA

- The tax information provided above will populate the answers to the appropriate FAFSA questions. After the FAFSA is populated your IRS session will end and you will return to your FAFSA. Check this box if you are choosing to transfer your information.

Transfer Now 

Do Not Transfer My Tax Information and Return to the FAFSA

- By clicking the "Do Not Transfer" button, you are choosing not to transfer your tax information electronically. Your IRS session will end and you will return to your FAFSA. You may still use this tax information to input the data into your FAFSA.

Do Not Transfer 

Maintaining Funding

- Must submit FAFSA annually
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
- Have a 67% completion rate every semester plus maintain “C” average to continue receiving financial aid
- Federal PELL Grant (Up to \$5,775 per school year) based on a maximum of 12 credit hours per semester (check with school)
- IL Monetary Award Program (MAP) (Up to \$4,720 per school year based on the school cost of attendance) Grant based on a maximum of 15 credit hours per semester (check with school)
- Work-Study program available on a first come first serve basis.

Practice Website for FAFSA Application

- The FAFSA practice demo site allows you to practice prior to working on the actual application.
 - To access the sites, go to <http://fafsademotest.ed.gov>
 - Enter:
 - User Name: eddemo
 - Password: fafsatest

This information will not transfer automatically to the actual FAFSA. Students must still apply at FAFSA.GOV

Scholarship Opportunities

- High School seniors and current college students have a broad variety of scholarships they can apply for in addition to the DCFS scholarship
 - Trusted search engines such as fastweb.com, scholarships.com and especially the Illinois Student Assistance Commission studentportal.isac.org, offer a scholarship database.
 - Students may also browse the scholarship website at the projected college/university they or are planning to attend.

Funding Available Through DCFS Post Secondary Programs



Types of Funding Available for DCFS Youth

- **DCFS related assistance**
 - Youth in College/ Vocational Training (YIC/VT)
 - Youth in Scholarship (YIS)
 - Education & Training Voucher (ETV)
 - Community College Payment Program (CCPP)

Youth in College/Vocational Training Program

- Monthly stipend of \$511 up to 4 years or semester of 23rd birthday.
- Medical Card until age 21
- Reimbursement for books not covered by financial aid grants.
- One time startup funding of \$200 to be used for living expenses.
- Attend a post-secondary school listed as accredited by the US Dept. of Education and in active status.

<http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/search.aspx>

DCFS Scholarship Program



- Monthly stipend of \$511 up to 5 consecutive years
- Medical card until age 23
- Reimbursement available for books not covered by financial aid grants
- Tuition & Mandatory fee waiver if attending Illinois state funded community colleges or universities

Education & Training Voucher (ETV)

- Up to \$5,000 to cover education related expenses such as tuition, fees, books, supplies, uniforms, equipment and/or transportation not covered by other grants or scholarships.
- Funding available until age 23 if ETV used before age 21 and student is continuing to make SAP in the program
- Award is based on Cost of Attendance and other grants/scholarships
- Covered tuition, fees, books & supplies that were not covered by financial aid, grants or scholarships.
- Funds can be used in trade or vocational schools to cover supplies or equipment not covered by financial aid, grants or scholarships as long as the school is listed as currently accredited by the U.S. Dept. of Education web site.
 - <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/search.aspx>
- Computers allowed ONLY if schools include a computer in their Cost of Attendance

Community College Payment Program (CCPP)



- Pay in-district community college tuition, fees, and books not covered by financial aid.
- Services and assistance from case worker and/or Department Education Advisors
- Certificate programs at the community college not eligible for federal financial aid such as: CNA, Phlebotomy, Pharmacy Tech, Medical Billing & Coding, Security Training, Forklift Training, etc.

Post Secondary Education Preparation Fees Paid By DCFS

- DCFS Payment Procedures 359.75 (m)
 - Allows the following payment for college/vocational school fees
 - Post Secondary Preparation Fees
 - \$200 maximum for school applications
 - \$500 maximum for college room and board





Helpful Links

- **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**
 - <https://fafsa.ed.gov>
- **FSA ID**
 - <https://fsaid.ed.gov>
- **ISAC- Student Portal**
 - <https://studentportal.isac.org>
- **Hispanic Scholarship Fund**
 - <https://hsf.net>
- **United Negro College Fund**
 - <http://www.uncf.org>
- **NIU Center for Child Welfare and Education (Educational Access Project- Education Advisors)**
 - <http://ccwe.niu.edu>

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Words of Wisdom

“Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.”

Thomas A. Edison